

TN DIPLOMA PROJECT

An Overview....



Liz Roper
*Family & Community Engagement
Office of Federal Programs*



Tennessee Educational Standards Are Changing in 2009-2010

- New rigorous content learning standards
- New assessments
- New high school graduation requirements



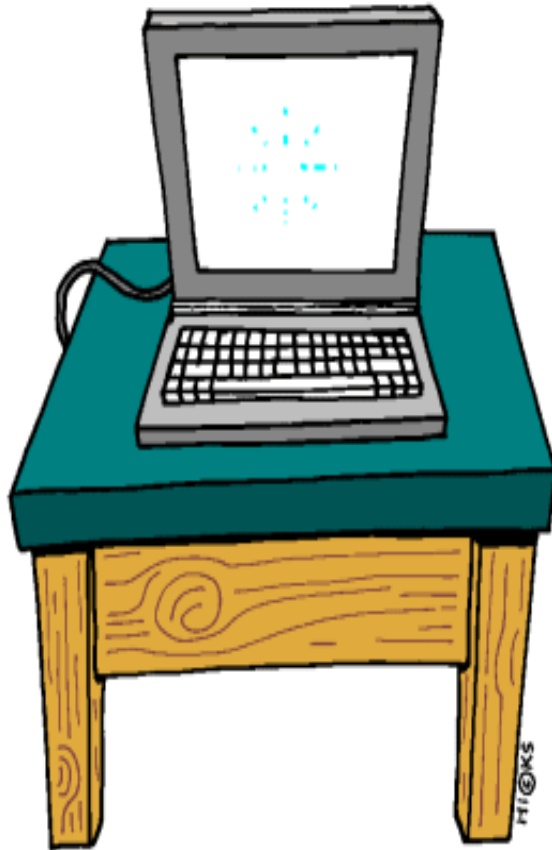
The World Is Changing...



- Tennessee students are competing for jobs not just against students in the United States, but also against students in India and China.
- Global access to technology has caused profound changes in business, economics and jobs. These changes are transforming the U.S. job market.
- The U.S. no longer holds a corner on the market for highly qualified workers.
- Today's workers require more education than ever before.
- Between 1995 and 2005, the U.S. lost 3 million manufacturing jobs and 17 million service jobs were created.

The Need For Rigorous Learning Standards...

Jobs In 2000-2010 Require More Education



- Jobs requiring post-secondary education or training will make up **more than two-thirds of new jobs**.
- **36%** of jobs will require some post secondary training
- **31%** of jobs will require a bachelors degree
- 22% of jobs will require a high school diploma
- 10% of jobs will be held by high school dropouts.
- Source: Carnevale, Anthony P. and Donna M. Desrochers, *Standards for What? The Economic Roots of K-16 Reform*, Educational Testing Service, 2003.

Tennessee Graduation Statistics

In 2002 for each 100 students in the 9th grade:

59 graduated high school on time

36 entered community college or university

15 graduated within 150% of time

21% of Tennesseans over the age of 18 can't read well enough to fill out a job application, read a food label, or read a simple story to a child.



Are Tennessee Students Proficient?

Spring 2007... National Chamber of Commerce comparison report card of key education factors in all states:

- Tennessee made an “F” in the category of Truth in Advertising...comparing Tennessee proficiency (our state assessments) to National proficiency (NAEP)
- 36 states produce high school graduates better prepared for college than TN.

A Gap Exists Between TN State Assessments and the National Assessment for Educational Progress

NAEP is a common test taken by a sample of students in every state.

- 4th grade achievement of state assessment vs. NAEP (2005):
 - TN reading test 87% proficient
 - NAEP reading test 27% proficient
 - TN math test 87% proficient
 - NAEP math test 28% proficient
- 8th grade achievement of state assessment vs. NAEP (2005):
 - TN reading test 87% proficient
 - NAEP reading test 26% proficient
 - TN math test 87% proficient
 - NAEP math test 21% proficient

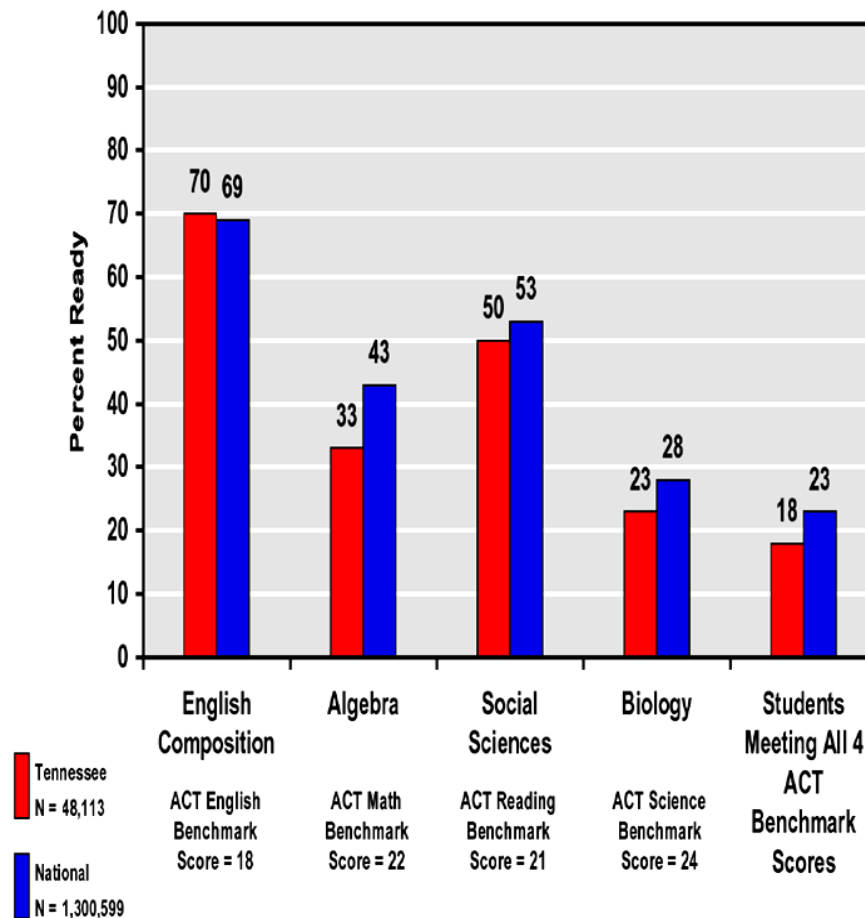
High School State Assessments

- All states have high school assessments that students take in order to graduate. In almost half of the states, students must pass these tests in order to graduate.
- Few states have designed their assessments to predict whether passing students are college ready.
- In 2005, 76% of TN students passed the Algebra I Gateway test.
- In 2005, 90% of TN students passed the English II Gateway test.
- Are students who pass the high school tests truly ready for college?

The Need For Rigorous Learning Standards...

*Many TN High School Graduates Not Ready For College.

2007 Tennessee and National ACT-Tested Graduates Likely to Be Ready for College-Level Work (in percent)



So What Are We Doing About It?

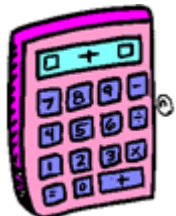
American Diploma Project & the TN Diploma Project

- The **American Diploma Project** was created in 1996 by the National Governors Association and business leaders to help states raise academic standards in order to better prepare young people for postsecondary education, work and citizenship.
- Currently in 32 States across the U.S. the **Tennessee Diploma Project** is led by the *Tennessee Alignment Committee*, a panel of state and local government officials, and business, postsecondary and K-12 leaders from across the state. Involving the business community has been integral to understanding the needs and expectations of employers. Informed by such input,
- TDP is working to align high school curricula and assessment standards with the college and workplace environments that graduates will face.
- The ADP network gives our state a blueprint for making our standards more rigorous and our graduation requirements more in line with demands of college and work.
- The Tennessee Department of Education **passed new graduation standards on January 25, 2008** to become effective at the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year.

The American Diploma Project has four specific actions:

1. **Align standards and assessments** with the knowledge and skills required beyond high school.
2. Require all high school students to take **challenging courses** that actually prepare them for life after high school.
3. **Build college and work-ready measures** into statewide accountability systems
4. **Hold schools accountable** for graduating students who are college and/or workforce ready, **and hold postsecondary accountable** for students' success once enrolled.





Preparing for the Workforce

In the summer of 2007, the Chambers of Commerce held six regional roundtable discussions about the **Tennessee Diploma Project**. In all 135 business leaders representing 114 companies and organizations from across Tennessee participated in roundtable discussions with Governor Phil Bredesen.

Additionally, 346 executives, senior-level managers and human resources professionals completed surveys rating the importance of key job skills, with an emphasis on English, mathematics, and professional or so-called “soft” skills. Surveys were distributed by the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry and key chapters of the Tennessee Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM).

CEO's from across the state were asked to gather information regarding observations and expectations of high school graduates' skills and knowledge. The CEOs stated that graduates needed:

- Stronger math and science skills, but especially need to have mastered basic math
- Stronger communication skills, including both verbal skills and written skills
- To be able to work in teams to solve real work problems
- To be able to think, apply, and use what they know
- To have a strong work ethic; be at work regularly and be on time



Tennessee High School Graduation Requirements

- **20 total credits required in 2008-2009:**

- **MATH:** 3 Credits Including either Geometry or Algebra II
- **SCIENCE:** 3 Credits Including one physical science course and Biology
- **ENGLISH:** 4 Credits
- **SOCIAL STUDIES:** 3 Credits
- **WELLNESS:** 1 Credit
- **ELECTIVE:** 6 Credits

Students in 2009-2010 must now earn:

- an additional credit in math
- an additional half credit in health/ P.E./ wellness,
- a half credit in personal finance, and
- three credits specific to the students' planned course of study.

- **22 credits required in 2009-2010 for students entering 9th grade:**

- **MATH:** 4 Credits Including Algebra I, II, Geometry and a fourth higher level math course
- **SCIENCE:** 3 Credits Including Biology, Chemistry or Physics, and a third lab course
- **ENGLISH:** 4 Credits
- **SOCIAL STUDIES:** 3 Credits
- **PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND WELLNESS:** 1.5 Credits
- **PERSONAL FINANCE:** .5 Credits
- **FOREIGN LANGUAGE:** 2 Credits
- **FINE ARTS:** 1 Credit may be waived for students not going to a University to expand and enhance the elective focus
- **ELECTIVE FOCUS:** 3 Credits Math and Science, Career and Technical Education, Fine Arts, Humanities, Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB)

Program:

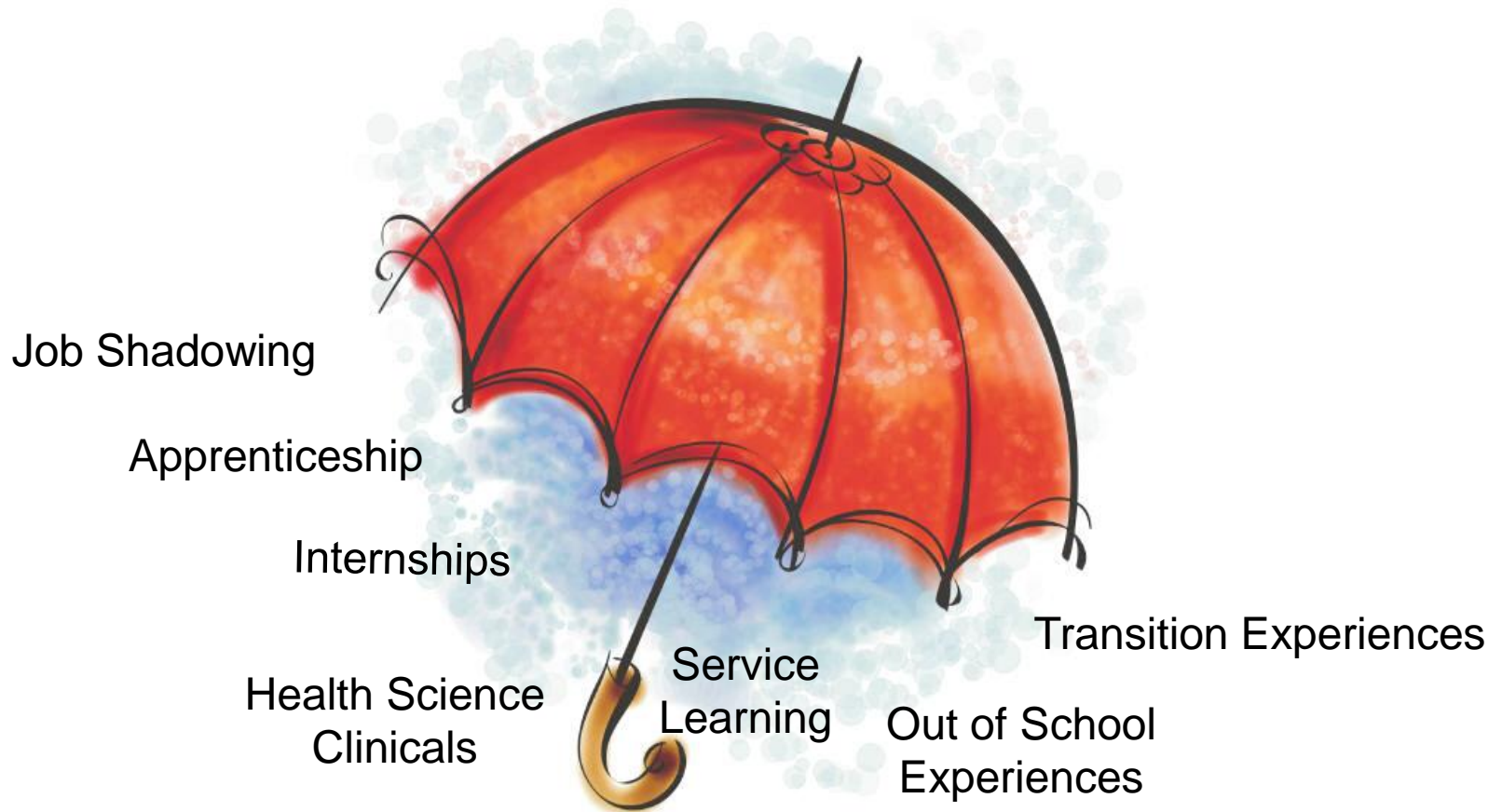
Other Changes In 2009-2010

- **Students will develop one focused program of study** (1 diploma) preparing for postsecondary study and lifelong learning. The focused plan of study will be developed with the student, parent/guardian(s), and faculty advisor or guidance counselor.
- Classes beginning in 7th grade may offer high school credit.
- All graduating seniors must have 180 computer hours.
- Students who score passing on the ACT or SAT will graduate with honors.
- Some students in Special Ed. will take alternative assessments; H.S. Spec. Ed. students can earn points on end of course assessments, & complete Algebra I, geometry, and 3 credits in science for regular diploma. Transition certificate awarded for IEP completion, but less than 22 credits
- The local Board of Education may require a **capstone project** such as, but not limited to, a senior project, virtual enterprise, internship, externship, work-based learning, service learning, or community service project.

Tests:

- **End of course exams** will be given in English I, II, and III, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, U.S. History, Biology I, Chemistry and Physics. The end-of-of-course exams will count as 25% of the student's final grade and **will replace Gateway exams**.
- The student will **not be required to pass any one examination**, but instead the students will need to achieve a passing score for the course average in accordance with the State Board of Education's uniform grading policy.
- **Eighth grade students take the EXPLORE test** to assess ACT readiness benchmarks or PSAT for SAT prediction.
- **Tenth grade students take the PLAN test** to assess ACT readiness benchmarks or PSAT for SAT prediction.
- **Eleventh grade students take the ACT or SAT.**

Work Based Learning



The Governor's Challenge

Challenge

- We will no longer accept an “F” in truth and advertising from the National Chamber of Commerce Report Card.

Expectations

- The Governor and the legislature will expect:
- Higher standards for proficiency and academic performance;
- True accountability for all-students, teachers, local education agencies, and higher education; and
- Proficient= proficient whether a state assessment or national assessment



Tennessee State Plan

- After received an “F” in truth in advertising, data was collected about education and jobs through meetings and surveys
- Curriculum content standards were rewritten in reading, English, math, and science
- State Board Education approved new high school policy & standards (Jan. 2008)
- Educator training in: science, English-Language, and math in 4 groups: K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12 (Spring-Summer 2009)
- Revise assessments, ongoing educator training, inform all
- Teacher content training podcasts archived on www.TNelc.org
- Best practices in teaching content will be added to www.TNelc.org
- Create system wide curriculum coordinator positions
- Conduct comprehensive evaluations

Future National Content Standards?

- 46 states agree to common academic standards (June 2009)
- National Governors Association & Council of Chief State School Officers say the national math and language arts standards may be written by: Achieve, Inc. which works on college & career readiness; College Board in NY which administers the SAT; & ACT Inc. in Iowa City
- CCSSO and NGA named 35 members to critique the standards work (July 2009)
- Finish reviewing national high school grade-by-grade standards (December 2009)
- Review of standards and states' adoption of standards by national & international experts (Committee not yet formed as of July 2009)
- Updates of progress on standards and states' adoption of standards will be posted on www.corestandards.org

What Parents Can Do



- Reinforce to your child the importance of staying in school and doing his best.
- Talk with your child's teachers about how you can help your child succeed.
- Expect the best from your child and seek help if your child is struggling in a class.
- Make education the top priority for your child.
- Explore what kind of life your child wants, discuss job options, and set career goals.
- Assist your child in getting college information, tour campuses, and complete admission and financial aid packets. Create a plan to pay for college.

Resources

- Tennessee Diploma Project <http://tn.gov/TDP/>
- “Taking Inventory: Job Skills in the Tennessee Workforce”
www.tndiplomaproject.com
- High School Transition Policy- Frequently Asked Questions
<http://www.tnelc.org>
- TN State Report Card
<http://edu.reportcard.state.tn.us/pls/apex/f?p=200:1:1517308622073903>
- Tennessee Curriculum Standards K-12
<http://tennessee.gov/education/curriculum.shtml>

My Contact Information

Liz Roper

Family and Community Engagement

Office of Federal Programs

TN State Department of Education

- 615-253-0047
- Elizabeth.Roper@tn.gov